

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SS-15  
NSC-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00  
OIC-02 NEA-10 EA-09 /078 W  
-----039230 131828Z /43

O 131744Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5657

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 20431

USOECD

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FORHENRY OWEN

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR AVERY, HEWITT AND JENSEN

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OCON, ELAB, OECD  
SUBJECT: MSAC DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED OECD CONFERENCE  
ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT - JULY 6-8

1. ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF  
LABOR, WHICH WERE COORDINATED WITH STATE, USDEL  
METCALF TOOK THE FOLLOWING POSITION DURING LENGTHY  
DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE:

A. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO EXCHANGE  
INFORMATION ON, AND ASSESS, LABOR MARKET POLICIES

AND PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
YOUNG WORKERS.

B. GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD BE  
REPRESENTED BY MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOR  
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MARKET PROGRAMS (OR AT LEAST HAVE THAT OPTION).

C. THE CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE HELD AS A  
PURELY INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING WITHIN THE MSAC  
BUT SHOULD BE ASPECIAL CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD  
ALLOW REPRESENTATION BY LABOR AND BUSINESS ORGANIZA-  
TIONS AND MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

D. TO ALLOW TIME FOR PREPARATION, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE HELD UNTIL MARCH 1978, AND SHOULD NOT EXCEED THREE DAYS.

2. THE COMMITTEE AGREED WITH U.S. VIEWS CONCERNING PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE. THEY ALSO AGREED THE MEETING SHOULD BE A SPECIAL CONFERENCE, BUT A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS OPPOSED ANY FORMULA WHICH WOULD ALLOW PARTICIPATION BY LABOR AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CONFERENCE. THEY STRESSED THAT THIS WOULD SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. (THE UK AND BELGIUM WERE AMONG THE DELEGATIONS STRONGLY OPPOSING THIS PROPOSAL WITH ONLY THE NORDIC COUNTRIES SUPPORTING THE U.S.). HOWEVER, THE MSAC DID AGREE THAT TUAC AND BIAC SHOULD RECEIVE ALL SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THE CONFERENCE AND BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THEM. THE U.S. THEN PUSHED FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH BIAC AND TUAC THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING AND, IN PRINCIPLE, THE MSAC ACCEPTED SOME FORM OF CONSULTATIONS, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY THE TIMING OR FORM OF THE CONSULTATIONS.

3. MANY DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO DELAY THE CONFERENCE UNTIL MARCH TO ALLOW FOR

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NSC-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00  
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ADEQUATE PREPARATION. HOWEVER, A STRONG CASE WAS MADE FOR THE POLITICAL NECESSITY OF HOLDING THE CONFERENCE IN 1977 TO RESPOND TO THE SENSE OF URGENCY CONVEYED IN THE LONDON SUMMIT AND MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

U.S. AND ITSSUPPORTERS AND THOSE WANTING THE CONFERENCE AS EARLY AS OCTOBER; THE MSAC AGREEDTO AIM FOR DECEMBER 1977. NO DELEGATION OPPOSED TE SUGGESTION THAT THE CONFERENCE (AND POSSIBLE C-SULTATIONS) SHOULD BE HELD WITHIN A THREE-DAY PERIOD.

4. THE COMMITTEE WAS OF TWO MINDS CONCERNING MINISTERIAL LEVEL REPRESENTATION. THE U.S. ARGUED THAT THE IMPORTANCE PLACED ON THE MEETING IN THE SUMMIT AND MINISTERIAL COUNCIL COMMUNIQUES PRECLUDED LOWER LEVEL "EXPERT" REPRESENTATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, UK ARGUED THAT SINCE THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, IT DID NOT REQUIRE MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION. THIS POINT ALSO MADE AN IMPACT ON SOME DELEGATIONS. IN THE END, THE LK WAS ALONE IN ARGUING AGAINST A MINISTERIAL BUT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CHAIRMAN (IRELAND) APPEARED SYMPATHETIC TO THE UK POSITION. THE SECRETARIAT INDICATED THAT THEY WILL INFORM THE COUNCIL THE MSAC DID NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT. THIS WILL LEAVE THE FINAL DECISION ON LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL. TO PREPARE FOR CONFERENCE IT WAS AGREED THAT A SPECIAL PREPARATORY GROUP WOULD MEET OCTOBER 3 AND 4 TO DISCUSS ALL MATERS RELATED TO THE CONFERENCE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: ALTHOUGH THIS MATTER IS NOT SCHEDULED TO COME UP AT JULY 22 COUNCIL, IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES FEEL STRONGLY THAT WEWOULD LIKE MINISTERIAL LEVEL PARTICIPATION AT THE MEETING WE SHOULD RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE THIS POINT UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS" SO THAT MATTER CAN BE REPORTED TO OTHER LABOR MINISTERS IN TIME FOR THEM TO TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT BEFORE AUGUST BREAK.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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